Tapes Tie Nixon to Anti-McGovern Plot

Reuter

NEW YORK, Dec. 6—Then-President Richard M. Nixon and his aide, Charles Colson, in 1972 plotted to link the man who tried to kill Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace with Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern, The New Yorker magazine reported today.

In an article based on unreleased tapes recorded by Nixon, the magazine said Nixon and Colson decided to send former CIA operative E. Howard Hunt to Milwaukee to plant McGovern campaign literature in the apartment of Arthur Bremer, the man who shot Wallace.

The New Yorker story was written by Seymour Hersh, a former New York Times reporter who won a Pulitzer Prize for exposing the My Lai massacre in Vietnam in 1970.

The tapes Hersh refers to in The New Yorker article are part of a batch of recordings in the National Archives that Nixon has successfully blocked from public release. It was unclear how Hersh obtained information from the tapes.

Bremer on May 15, 1972, shot Wallace as he campaigned in suburban Maryland during his third-party independent presidential bid. Nixon was up for reelection and McGovern was the likely Democratic nominee at the time.

Hunt, a central figure in planning the Watergate break-in at Democratic Party headquarters on June 17, 1972, was ordered by Colson, the White House counsel, to fly to Milwaukee only hours after Bremer shot Wallace.

The trip was canceled when the FBI, to Nixon's dismay, sealed the Bremer apartment.

The plot was never revealed in the many Watergate investigations that led to Nixon's resignation in August 1974. He had crushed McGovern in the November 1972 election.

In an interview with Hersh, Colson admits the plot to smear McGovern, then a senator from South Dakota.

Colson said the tapes captured "the black side of our natures. It was both of us. We were spontaneous combustion."

Dolan said.

E Post 12/7/92

Wallace shooting gain sought

WASHINGTON (AP) – Still-secret White House tapes show Richard Nixon favored planting McGovern campaign literature in the apartment of the man arrested for shooting Alabama Gov. George Wallace, The New Yorker magazine reported Sunday. Mr. Nixon and White House counsel Charles Colson discussed how to exploit the attempted assassination for political gain within hours of the May 15, 1972, shooting, the New Yorker said in a story released Sunday.

They were unable to plant material from Democrat George McGovern's presidential campaign because the FBI moved too quickly in sealing off the apartment of gunman Arthur Bremer, said the magazine article by Seymour M. Hersh. Mr. Colson told the New Yorker that the idea progressed as far as approaching E. Howard Hunt about flying to Milwaukee where Bremer lived, according to the article.